The next three messages in II Corinthians will be on Stewardship. We will look at:
- How we give.
- How we handle what we have been given.
- The blessings that come when we give.

Where God is at work people love to give. “See that you excel in this grace of giving.” Verse 7

I. Giving is a response to the grace of God in our life. Verses 1-7

It is a way of saying thank you to God for what he has done for us.
We are to give generously. Verses 1-3
The Macedonian churches, Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, were going through a very difficult time – severe trials and extreme poverty.
Yet how did they give? They gave with overflowing joy and rich generosity.

We are to give willingly. Verses 3b-4
When God is at work in your heart, no one needs to beg you to give.
“They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service.”

We are to give properly. Verse 5
Giving involves more than money.
“They gave of themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.”
We are to give God our best – not our leftovers.

We are to give lovingly. Verses 8-9
The greatest example of love showing itself in rich generosity is Jesus.
“Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

II. Giving is an evidence of our love for God. Verses 8-15
If there is no desire to give, it casts doubt on our salvation. Luke 19:1-9
“Today salvation has come to this house.”
“Authentic salvation changes our orientation to wealth.” Kent Hughes
We are to give consistently. Verses 10-11
Follow through is important.
Regular systematic giving is important.
“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.” I Corinthians 16:2

We are to give proportionately. Verses 12-15
It is not equal dollars, but equal sacrifice.
A tithe for the New Testament believer is a guide – a starting point. Grace always exceeds the law.

Conclusion
Giving is primarily a matter of the heart. When the heart is right, giving is not a problem.
We are to give:
• Generously
• Willingly
• Properly
• Lovingly
• Consistently
• Proportionately
See that you excel in this grace of giving.